

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-19 are now present in this application. Claims 1 and 3 are amended. Claims 1, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 are independent.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings are objected to because they do not illustrate the light conductor element being within an interior space of one of a headlight and a taillight, as recited in claim 1.

In order to overcome the objection to the drawings, Applicants submitted a proposed drawing correction in a separate Letter to the Official Draftsperson dated June 4, 2003. Specifically, Applicants propose to illustrate the reflector 14 and headlight 15 in Figure 1, as these elements are discussed in the specification in paragraph [0025], on page 8. Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended the specification by inserting reference numerals into the text of paragraph [0025] on page 8. The reference numerals bring the specification into conformance with the proposed drawing corrections to Figure 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicates that claims 13-19 are allowed. The Examiner indicates that claims 2, 3, 5-7 and 9-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Telephone Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview of October 8, 2003. During the interview, the attached amendments to claim 1 and 3 were discussed. Specifically, Applicants suggested adding many of the limitations of allowable claim 3 into independent claim 1. Previously, the Examiner commented that several limitations in claim 3 patentably distinguished the present invention over the prior art of record.

As discussed during the interview, amended Claim 1 does not require that "the ring-shaped light conductor is one piece." This limitation was

purposefully left in dependent claim 3. The Examiner stated that he was still of the opinion that amended claim 1 would most likely be considered allowable over the prior art of record.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1, 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glienicke. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the agreements reached during the telephone interview, as discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. Scott L. Lowe (Reg. No. 41,458) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to

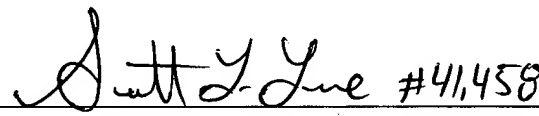
conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicant(s) respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a two-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$420.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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